

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 INRE-00

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 458

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

1. TV - NO RPT NO FILM OR VOICE FEEDS OF ANY TRAVELERS
CARRIED ON WEDNESDAY EVENING NETWORK PROGRAMS. (SEE
KALB FIRST LINER BELOW FOR HIS EXPLANATION.)

2. RADIO - THURSDAY MORNING RADIO SOMEWHAT BARREN OF TRIP
COVERAGE AS WELL. FOLLOWING THREE REPORTS BROADCAST FROM
ISRAEL:

A. ANDERSON (GROUP W NEWS): "ALL SIDES AGREE THERE HAS
BEEN PROGRESS, BUT IT APPEARS TO BE PAINFUL AND SLOW
AND MEASURED IN INCHES AND DEGREES. KISSINGER MET AGAIN
WITH THE ISRAELI NEGOTIATING GROUP NEAR TEL AVIV LAST
NIGHT. A SPOKESMAN FOR KISSINGER SAID THE ISRAELIS AGREE
THERE HAS BEEN SOME PROGRESS ON THE DISENGAGEMENT BETWEEN
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SYRIA AND ISRAEL BUT HE ADDED THAT I CAUTION YOU THAT WE

ARE STILL NOT NEAR AN AGREEMENT. KISSINGER IS GOING TO BE SPENDING THIS DAY IN SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT. HE OR HIS REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN IN ALMOST CONSTANT TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND KING FAISAL UNDER THE THEORY THAT IT DOES TWO THINGS -- IT HAS AN ENCOURAGING EFFECT ON SYRIA'S WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE AND MAINTAINS GOOD RELATIONS

BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE MODERATE ARABS. KISSINGER WILL BE BACK HERE IN ISRAEL TOMORROW TO GET THE ISRAELI REPLY TO TAKE BACK TO DAMASCUS HOPEFULLY NARROWING THE GAP A BIT MORE. THIS PROCESS HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR ABOUT A WEEK NOW, HOW MUCH LONGER CAN IT GO -- PERHAPS ANOTHER FOUR OR FIVE DAYS U.S. OFFICIALS FEEL, AND THEN EITHER KISSINGER WILL HAVE AN AGREEMENT OR HE WILL GO BACK HOME AND LET BOTH SIDES THINK IT OVER FOR AWHILE."

B. KALB (CBS RADIO) FIRST LINE REPORT: "TRAVELING IN THE KISSINGER COCOON. KISSINGER'S BLUE AND WHITE JET ROARED OUT OF THE SKIES LANDING AT BEN GURION AIRPORT OUTSIDE OF TEL AVIV 55 MINUTES AFTER TAKING OFF FROM DAMASCUS, THE ANCIENT CAPITAL OF SYRIA. THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD SPENT HALF THE DAY TALKING ABOUT A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ASAD. THE THREE NETWORK CORRESPONDENTS HAD GOOD FILM AND A GOOD STORY. WHILE KISSINGER WAS IN DAMASCUS TRYING TO MID-WIFE A DEAL BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL, BREZHNEV SENT A SECRET NOTE TO ASAD, PRESUMABLY URGING THE SYRIAN LEADER TO ACCEPT KISSINGER'S MEDIATION. OFFICIAL SYRIAN SOURCES THEN SAID, UNOFFICIALLY OF COURSE, THAT THERE WOULD SOON BE AN ARAB SUMMIT MEETING, AGAIN PRESUMABLY TO RATIFY THE DEAL THAT SYRIA IS NOW CONSIDERING. THE SECRETARY HIMSELF THOUGHT THAT PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE AND HE SAID SO AT THE DAMASCUS AIRPORT.

THERE WAS COLOR IN THE STORY TOO BECAUSE SECURITY WAS EXTRAORDINARILY TIGHT. KISSINGER'S SECRET SERVICE AGENTS CARRIED ISRAELI-MADE MACHINE GUNS ON ALERT IN CASE OF TROUBLE. THE AGENT DANGLING FROM A CAR DOOR HOLDING ON TO HIS GUN MADE A VERY GOOD PICTURE. THE MOTORCADE HAD TO PASS BY A PALESTINIAN CAMP, OVER-CROWDED AND DIRTY, A SYMBOL OF THE MOST INTRACTABLE PROBLEM IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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ME. ANYWAY, THE THREE CORRESPONDENTS GOT QUICKLY OFF THE KISSINGER PLANE, RUSHED TO WAITING CARS AND THEY WERE DRIVEN AT TOP SPEED TO THE SATELLITE STATION OUTSIDE OF TEL AVIV EACH OF THEM WANTED TO BE FIRST IN THE LAB WITH HIS FILMS, FIRST TO REPORT HIS STORY, FIRST TO BE ABLE TO SEE HIS STORY BEAMED BY SATELLITE TO THE U.S. . EACH WAS CONVINCED HE HAD A GOOD STORY, ONE WORTHY OF THE ATTENTION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. EXCEPT AT THAT MOMENT WATERGATE

INTRUDED BURSTING INTO THE KISSINGER COCOON. A TELEPHONE
CALL FROM NEW YORK, A TELEVISION PRODUCER'S EXCITED
VOICE RELAYING AN EXCITED MESSAGE -- THE BIRD, HE SAID,
IS DOWN, MEANING SATELLITE TIME WOULD NOT BE PURCHASED
BY ANY OF THE NETWORKS TO TRANSMIT THE KISSINGER STORY
BY FILM, AT LEAST THAT NIGHT. WHY, THE LOGICAL QUESTION?
THE ANSWER SOMETHING ABOUT JOHN MITCHELL, THE FORMER
ATTORNEY GENERAL KNOWING ABOUT THE WATERGATE BREAK-IN ALL

ALONG. THE MITCHELL STORY APPARENTLY SO GRIPPING THAT
THE KISSINGER STORY FALLS VICTIM TO THE PRESSURES OF
TIME.

THE BIRD IS DOWN, AND WHEN THE THREE CORRESPONDENTS IN
VARYING DEGREES OF DEJECTION MAKE THEIR WAY TO THEIR CARS
AND CABS FOR THE HOUR AND FIFTEEN MINUTE RIDE BACK TO
JERUSALEM THEY WONDER IF THEIR WORLD IS REAL AT ALL,
THEIR WORLD HAS BEEN A PLANE AND A SERIES OF AIRPORTS
AND MANY DIFFERENT PRESIDENTIAL PALACES AND DOZENS OF
NEWS CONFERENCES, ARABS AND ISRAELI LEADERS AND A
WANDERING SECRETARY OF STATE HOPPING FROM ONE ME CAPITAL
TO ANOTHER SEARCHING FOR THE RIGHT MIX, THE FORMULA
WHICH CAN PUT AN END TO TH
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